

ations are possible, for example, an audible tone generated in the nasal intubation adjunct, a bright light at the distal end of the manipulator with batteries contained in the body of the unit, an attachment for nasal pharyngeal airways, electronic amplification of sounds heard through the nasal intubation adjunct, a disposable section, a variety of materials and methods of fabrication. Accordingly, the scope of the invention should be determined not by the embodiment illustrated, but by the appended claims and their legal equivalents.

I claim:

1. An instrument for allowing an operator to insert a nasally placed airway tube into a patient, said instrument comprising:

a body having a first opening extending therethrough and a second opening extending into said body to connect to said first opening;

tube attachment means for attaching the airway tube to said body and for allowing the airway tube to cooperate with said first opening in said body;

manipulator means for flexing the airway tube, said manipulator means being insertable into said body and the airway tube through said first opening; and means attached to said second opening for detecting breathing sounds,

means for attaching said manipulator to said body, said means for attaching the manipulator including a slide mounted to said manipulator;

a slide track located on said body parallel to said first opening; and

means for attaching said slide to said slide track; whereby said manipulator may be adjusted to a plurality of positions to accommodate a plurality of airway tube lengths.

2. The instrument of claim 1 wherein said tube attachment means further comprises:

a first one way valve connected to allow air to be exhaled by the patient through the airway tube; and

a second one way valve connected to allow air to be inhaled by the patient through the airway tube.

3. The instrument of claim 2 wherein said first one way valve is mounted to direct exhaled air in a direction substantially perpendicular to said first opening.

4. The instrument of claim 2 wherein said second one way valve is mounted to receive air in a direction substantially perpendicular to said first opening.

5. The instrument of claim 1 wherein said manipulator means further comprises:

adjustable projection means extending into the airway tube for flexing the airway tube; and

handle means for allowing the operator of said instrument to control said adjustable projection means.

6. The instrument of claim 5 wherein said adjustable projection means further comprises:

a soft tube having a top opening at one end thereof, a closed tip at an other end thereof, and a hollow center extending from said top opening to said tip; a spring extending from said top opening toward said tip and having a distal end located substantially at said tip;

constricting means for pulling said distal end of said spring toward said top opening, said constricting means being attached to said spring at said distal end, and extending through said soft tube to said top opening to attach to said handle means;

whereby said adjustable projection means is flexed by adjusting said handle.

7. The instrument of claim 6 wherein said constricting means comprises a cable.

8. The instrument of claim 1 wherein said means for detecting breathing sounds comprises a stethoscope.

9. An instrument for allowing an operator to insert a nasally placed airway tube into a patient, said instrument comprising:

a body having a first opening extending therethrough and a second opening extending into said body to connect to said first opening;

tube attachment means for attaching the airway tube to said body and for allowing the airway tube to cooperate with said first opening in said body comprising

a connecting fitting for receiving the airway tube, said fitting having a central opening for cooperating with said first opening,

a first one way valve connected to said central opening for allowing air exhaled by the patient through the airway tube to exit said instrument in a direction away from said first opening, and a second one way valve connected to said central opening for allowing air inhaled by the patient through the airway tube to enter said instrument;

manipulator means for flexing the airway tube, said manipulator means being insertable into said body and the airway tube through said first opening; said manipulator means further comprises an adjustable projection means extending into the airway tube for

flexing the airway tube; and handle means for allowing the operator of said instrument to control said adjustable projection means,

the adjustable projection means further comprises a soft tube having a top opening at one end thereof, a closed

tip at an other end thereof, and a hollow center extending from said top opening toward said tip; a spring extending from said top opening toward said tip and having a distal end located substantially at said tip;

constricting means for pulling said distal end of said spring

toward said top opening, said constricting means being

attached to said spring at said distal end, and extending

through said soft tube and said top opening to attach to

said handle means; whereby said adjustable projection means is flexed by

adjusting said handle; and

means attached to said second opening for detecting breathing sounds.

10. The instrument of claim 9 wherein said constricting means comprises a cable.

11. The instrument of claim 9 wherein said means for detecting breathing sounds comprises a stethoscope.

12. The instrument of claim 9 wherein said second opening is connected to said central opening.

13. An instrument for allowing an operator to insert a nasally placed airway tube into a patient, said instrument comprising:

a body having a first opening extending therethrough;

tube attachment means for attaching the airway tube to said body and for allowing the airway tube to